



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/056,945

10/25/2001

David K. Platner

60130-1220/01MMRA0210-CIP

4965

26096

7590

10/12/2005

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.  
400 WEST MAPLE ROAD  
SUITE 350  
BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TRINH T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3644

DATE MAILED: 10/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/056,945

Applicant(s)

PLATNER, DAVID K.

Examiner

Trinh T. Nguyen

Art Unit

3644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Election dated 8/3/05.  
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) 2,3 and 6-18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,5 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Species 4A, as directed to claims 1, 4, and 5 in the reply filed on 8/3/05 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the Examiner is suggesting a single step within the claim method is a separate specie. This is not found persuasive because the only proper traverse to an election of species requirement is to state that the species are not patentably distinct. If the Applicant(s) wish to do so, they, and their admission that one species is not patentably distinct over the other, will provide an express admission that a rejection of one species necessarily is a rejection of all species. The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Moses (US 6,122,948).

Moses discloses a method of forming a tubular axle comprising the steps of:  
providing a cylindrical hollow workpiece/member (70) having an end portion;  
forming the end portion to provide a first generally circular end;

Art Unit: 3644

forming a section of the cylindrical hollow member into a multi-wall thickness section (see Figure 13 attached at the end of this Office Action for further explanation); and welding a preformed kingpin boss (72) to the generally circular end.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moses (US 6,122,948).

For claim 4, note that Moses' method does include forming the multi-wall thickness section into a generally frustoconical shape (see Figure 13 especially). However, Moses' method lacks to mention that the forming step is swaging. It is noted that an Official Notice is taken that swaging structural members to a desirable cross section and/or wall thickness and/or length is an old and conventional technique commonly used throughout the art of metal forming. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method of Moses so as to employ such an old and conventional technique, in light of the Official Notice taken, in order to optimize the integrity of the structural member and thus increase the overall performance.

For claim 5, note that Moses' method does include forming the hollow member into a generally polygonal cross-section. However, Moses' method lacks to mention

Art Unit: 3644

that the forming step is swaging. It is noted that an Official Notice is taken that swaging structural members to a desirable cross section and/or wall thickness and/or length is an old and conventional technique commonly used throughout the art of metal forming. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method of Moses so as to employ such an old and conventional technique, in light of the Official Notice taken, in order to optimize the integrity of the structural member and thus increase the overall performance.

Furthermore, regarding to the limitation that the "swaging" step is performed after step a) (i.e., providing step), it is noted that whether the assembly step occurs in a particular order, such as prior to or subsequent to or after another assembly step, is a matter of design choice wherein on stated problem is solved, or any new or unexpected result achieved by performing the step in the order claimed versus the order taught by Moses, and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with the step conducted in any particular order.

### ***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments filed 6/1/05 and 8/3/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

7. Applicant's arguments regarding to claims 1,4, and 5 are acknowledged. However, Applicant is referred to paragraphs #2-5 above for further explanation.

### ***Conclusion***

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

Art Unit: 3644

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Trinh T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-6906. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 A.M to 6:00 P.M).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Teri Luu can be reached on (571) 272-7045. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Trinh T Nguyen  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3644

10/5/05

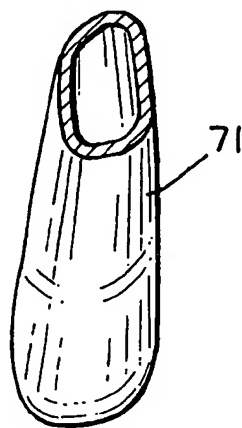
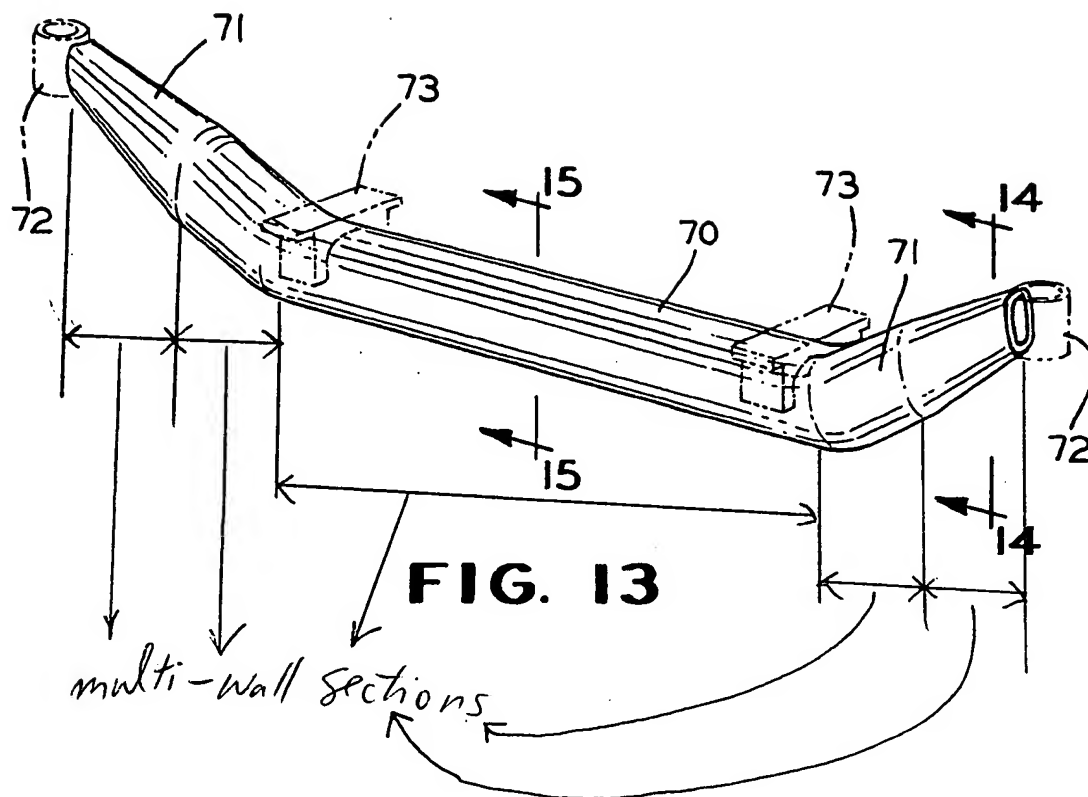


FIG. 14

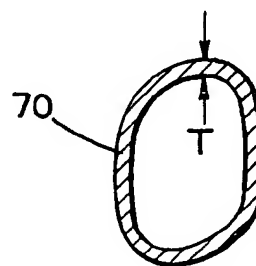


FIG. 15